Amendment to the 2003 AmeriCorps Guidelines

The Corporation for National and Community Service has been working to clarify the performance measure guidance since the 2003 AmeriCorps guidelines were published in November, 2002.   This document amends the 2003 AmeriCorps Guidelines in the following sections.

Requirements for Programs Using AmeriCorps Funds: Performance Measures and Accountability

Page 27:

Old Language: An AmeriCorps program will include 3-5 performance measures

Revision: Applicants are required to include at least three performance measures. You may submit other performance measures beyond those required. We will consider any additional performance measures you submit and will negotiate them with the required measures.

Page 28:

Old Language: With respect to those reported to the Corporation, you should specify no more than five and no less than three objectives as performance measures in the objectives worksheets . . . We do not require that there be at least one performance objective in each of the three categories . . . Finally, at least one of the 3-5 measures should reflect the goal related to managing and recruiting volunteers.

Revision: Replace the word "objective" with performance measure. The minimum number of performance measures remains three. There is no maximum. Hence, the guidance now indicates that you should specify at least three performance measures in the performance measure worksheets. At least one of the three measures should reflect the goal related to managing and recruiting volunteers.

Page 28:

Old Language: We encourage you to take extra care in developing objectives that lend themselves to performance-measured outcomes. During the grant review process, we will evaluate the three to five proposed performance measures as part of the selection criteria for new programs and in approving continuation grants.

Revision: We encourage you to take extra care in developing performance measures that will provide meaningful and useful information on

program performance. During the grant review process, we will evaluate all performance measures you submit.

Appendix B – Performance Measures

Page 51:

Old Language: The table is illustrative only; you do not have to include this table in your application

Revision: The table is illustrative and meant to assist you as you think through your program activities and performance measures. You cannot submit a table in our electronic grants system, eGrants. eGrants includes only text. You will be able write about your performance measures in your narrative and complete the performance measure worksheets.

Page 52:

Old Language: After you have chosen which measures to report, you will fill out the objective worksheets enclosed in the application packet. . . These new objective worksheets will be a part of the e-Grants system. We encourage you to make use of the performance measurement objective worksheets early in the process of completing your application, as experience indicates well-constructed objectives are essential to a quality application.

Revision: Replace the word "objective" with performance measure.

Page 54:

Old Language: The Corporation plans to make available, on our website and through technical assistance resources, information that will facilitate the development of objectives and assist in the long-term implementation of performance measures within national and community service.

Revision: Replace the word "objective" with performance measure.